

REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 1st June 1901.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

1573. The following is taken from the *Moslem Chronicle*:—

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,
18th May 1901.

The Amir's guns. Sometime ago, the Amir arranged for the payment of six lakhs and forty thousand rupees of the British subsidy to his Agents in Calcutta, as the first instalment of the purchase-money of six batteries of Krupp guns. One of His Highness's Afghan Agents has since sailed from Bombay by mail steamer, *en route* for Germany to superintend their construction.

1574. The same paper has the following:—

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,
18th May 1901.

The Sultan and the Foreign post-office.

Reuter's telegrams show that during the past week the feelings between the Porte and the Foreign Ambassadors have been one of a decidedly strained character. It arose out of a most intolerable and inconceivable anomaly that the Legations have till now been taking care of the despatch and delivery and transit of their own respective mail bags, in spite of the Turkish Post-offices, and contrary to the practice allowed and followed in other States of the comity of nations. It is a direct and rude infringement of the first and elementary rights of sovereignty, while it is simply preposterous to think that any Power should submit to it, when the deprivation of this right is so clearly convertible into an engine of plot, conspiracy and injury. In fact the light of some recent political intrigues and plots worked from without, palpably demonstrates the utter absurdity and unwisdom of any Power surrendering its control over the mails that come into its dominions. There are only three views from which the affair has to be looked at. The first is that it is diametrically against the rules of international polity; secondly, if the thing existed why should the Sultan now persist in its abolition; thirdly, not claiming the exercise of certain sovereign rights has never amounted to, and can never amount to, forfeiture of those rights. It is just possible, nay probable, that the experience gained by recent events has determined the Turks to put an end to an anomaly which is but a fruitful source of troubles and perils, and which no nation, in its instincts of self-preservation, would tolerate for a moment.

1575. The *Moslem Chronicle* has a strong article on the allegations of atrocities committed by the allied armies in China.

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,
18th May 1901.

The shame of Europe. "The weight of the evidence," says the *Chronicle*, "is principally against the French, Russian and German troops. It is not possible for us, even if we had the space to refer to all the sickening details of what is passing every day over the homes, hearths, and honour, of the luckless people of the Celestial Empire, under the Military occupation of the allied Christian nations of the West."

The *Chronicle* quotes from the correspondents of such papers as the *Times*, the *Daily Express*, the *France Militaire*, and from the Japanese paper, the *Niroku Shinpo*, to prove the instances of unrestrained looting, even sanctioned by, and carried on under the eyes of, the Legations; of wholesale slaughter of Chinese, of brutal treatment of children, of outrages on women, and every conceivable form of brutality and licentiousness.

From the *Niroku Shinpo* it takes a story of two young girls being ravished by four French soldiers, who, frightened in their act at the footsteps of approaching troops, killed the girls with their bayonets. It gives the number of women who were first outraged and then murdered by European soldiers, together with those who had committed suicide to avoid unbearable shame, as 573.

The European march through China, it is feared, will remain one of the darkest chapters, if the true history is ever written, that ever sullied the pages of history.

"And all this is done," says the *Chronicle*, "by men who adore Christ—the Great Saviour who gave up his life for the love of men. Let us hope that after this Canon McColl, for very shame, would hide his face for mention of the Turks."

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

a—Police.

BENGALÉE,
18th May 1901.

1576. Referring to the recent cases at Hooghly in which two Peshawaries were convicted under section 110, Criminal Procedure Code, as habitually committing extortion, the

The Kabuli nuisance.

Bengalee says, "The Police have not moved a day too soon, but they have moved with a vigour and thoroughness which have ensured the conviction of these two Peshawaries." What the Judge said of these two accused is true of the whole gang. Their trade is practically usury, which is abhorrent to all good Mussulmans, and they realize their outstanding by violence, often trespassing in houses and insulting females. The *Bengalee* trusts that further prosecutions will be started.

BENGALÉE,
22nd May 1901.

1577. The *Bengalee* says: "In any scheme of reform affecting the Police, it would be essential to insist upon higher qualifications on the part of the District Superintendent of

Police reform.

Police."

Mr. Reily in his evidence made the extraordinary confession that he did not understand Bengalee perfectly. It is also stated that he is a timid rider. The *Bengalee* would like to know what he is fit for.

"The examinations held for admission to the police ought to be real tests of merit; and no racial considerations ought to be permitted to prevent really deserving candidates from appearing at them."

BENGALÉE,
27th May 1901.

1578. The *Bengalee*, again taking up the question of police reform, says:

Ibid.

The chief cause of the inefficiency of the Police in Bengal is that they are undermanned. It quotes figures to show that the proportion of police to area is 1 to 9·8 square miles. It suggests as a remedy, an improvement in the status and pay of the village police, (1) By increasing their pay, which can be done by reducing their number and by Government contributing to their maintenance (the funds to be found by a reduction in the number of constables). (2) By changing their designation to something like "the village police agent," the stigma attached to the term "chaukidar" being a strong bar to the recruitment of men of the better classes.

The thanas should also be broken up into outposts, so as to reduce the average area of each station, which is now 135·5 square miles.

BENGALÉE,
27th May 1901.

1579. The *Bengalee* has an article complaining of the way in which the Hooghly Police is being managed by Mr. Castle.

Mr. Castle, District Superintendent of Police, Hooghly.

The following charges are made:—Leave applications are allowed to accumulate and are not disposed of. Leave is not granted, and men who want it have to take it on their own account. Every thana and outpost is short of men. Subordinates who wish to transact business with the District Superintendent of Police have to wait for hours. The Reserve Sub-Inspector is afraid to approach the *Sahib*.

NOTE.—The Deputy Inspector-General has been asked for a report.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

POWER AND GUAR-
DIAN,
19th May 1901.

1580. Referring to the acquittal of Mr. Whyte, *Power and Guardian* says, "The Learned Judge agreeing with the Jury acquitted the prisoner and thus allowed the murder

The Hazaribagh shooting case.

of a poor cooly to go unpunished. If there is a riot or an assault on a European, the dictum is that someone must be punished for the day's work. But there is, say, a murder of a native by a European, and immediately the same rulers quietly and conveniently forget the above policy and take shelter under the plea of prestige and what not. The white murderer is declared mad or the murder is pronounced the result of an accident. The howl that is raised by the Native Press in such a contingency is put down to be a plain exhibition of rank disloyalty and disaffection, and the world is sought to be cajoled into the belief that India is being governed under the most enlightened principles and in the interests of Indians. Could effrontery go further? Could white-washing be more outrageously scandalous?"

1581. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says, "It seems strange that the presiding Judge, when delivering charge, did not draw the attention of the Jury to some of the important points raised by the Standing Counsel, which were fatal to the defence theory If some fifty or sixty Sonthals attacked the Europeans, how is it that Mohan, Mr. Whyte's servant, could not identify any of them?..... Again, if the men had come to fight, is it likely they would have brought with them the *pooja* basket, which the Inspector found on the ground?"

"Another feature of the summing up was the absence of any allusion to exaggerations or contradictions or improbable statements on the part of the defence witnesses." His Lordship characterised the prosecution evidence as deliberately false, but took no notice of some of the improbabilities of the defence theory.

The *Patrika* then points out what it considers some of the improbabilities of the defence evidence, and remarks, "It would be an outrageous arrangement to punish a European, when he and his assistants were being mobbed, for the murder of two Sonthals (*sic*). When a European is being mobbed, his safety lies in his rifle, and rifle means loss of life."

"But do natives usually mob Europeans?" The *Patrika* defies anyone to prove one single instance in which a native unprovoked has attacked an European.

"It is quite true that Europeans should be given, considering their defenceless position in Indian villages, the free use of rifles. But, on the other hand, the natives of the soil have some claim upon the Government, which is that these rifles should not be too freely used against them."

1582. The *Indian Empire*, while it does not grudge Mr. Whyte his acquittal, cannot but deplore the fact that "native" lives should be lost in this way.

Ibid.

It adds:—

While we do not presume to find fault with the trial that was held and the verdict arrived at, we cannot shut our eyes to the culpability of allowing young and apparently haughty Europeans like Whyte to deal with ignorant natives of the country, with whose language, manners and custom he is totally unacquainted, and also of permitting them to use firearms without any restrictions whatever.

We would implore the Government to think of the result of such cases. Already there is an impression abroad, and we hope we do not offend anybody by recording the impression, that the result of such cases is a foregone conclusion, that a European, accused of a serious offence, will never be convicted by a European Jury. Surely, surely such an impression, even if wrongly formed, cannot tend to the good government of the country. We find that in most of these cases it is the gun that plays the mischief. We would therefore propose to the authorities to put some sort of check upon the free use of firearms.

1583. Referring to the conviction of Sadak Ali in the second trial of the Noakhali murder case, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says, "This means that Mr. Geidt has declared for Mr. Pennell and against the High Court. For the latter, in effect, held that Sadak Ali was innocent, and that the witnesses, Torab and Hossein, had perjured themselves. Mr. Geidt however, like Mr. Pennell, believed these two witnesses.

"Here is a queer spectacle indeed. A subordinate setting aside the decision of his masters. Mr. Geidt had practically to go against the direct mandate of the High Court."

The *Patrika* then suggests that as the late Mr. Justice Strachey was made Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court "for his eminent services to Government, Mr. Justice Ameer Ali, who has also a brilliant record, should be appointed to succeed him."

1584. The *Bengalee* wishes to call the attention of the Chief Commissioner of Assam to a sentence of one year's rigorous imprisonment passed on a Muhammadan gentlemen, named Maulvi Abdul Hamid, for the simple offence of keeping a gun and a dagger without a license.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
21st May 1901.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
21st May 1901.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
21st May 1901.

BENGALIEE,
22nd May 1901.

BENGALÉE,
23rd May 1901.

1585. Referring to the acquittal of Private Sullivan, the *Bengalée* remarks,

The Fort William murder.

"Jurors are Judges of facts, and Judges are bound to administer the law; but a Foreign Government is certainly placed in an extremely delicate position when a member of the ruling race escapes, either on a plea of insanity or the right of self-defence, after having been proved a murderer of one of the ruled."

HINDOO PATRIOT,
23rd May 1901.

1586. The *Hindu Patriot*, while having nothing to say against the verdict

Ibid.

of the Jury in this case, takes exception to it solely on the ground that further necessary evidence, which should have been taken for a better proof of the insanity of the prisoner, was absent. The medical certificate, which testified to Sullivan's fitness for enlistment both physically and mentally, would have been far more satisfactory evidence than what was placed before the Judge and Jury.

The *Patriot* is next altogether dissatisfied with the medical evidence rendered by the defence, and, with reference to the Judge's remarks on the method of discerning the motives which actuate a man in the commission of certain acts, expresses itself as follows:—

"The surrounding circumstances are clear as anything and, according to the learned Judge, there was no other way of ascertaining the guilt or innocence, except by the surrounding circumstances. There are events that preceded and followed the occurrence, and they are all on record. The preceding surrounding circumstances showed that the motive of the murder was to wreak vengeance upon the poor master tailor for reporting his conduct to the authorities, and the surrounding circumstances that followed the murder look as if the crime was committed under a temporary fit of insanity. The whole question now hinges upon these circumstances and the guilt or innocence of the prisoner as well as the commission of the crime, whether under deliberate motive or not, rest upon them. We will dwell further on this subject in a future issue."

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
24th May 1901.

1587. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, being on principle opposed to capital punishment, is glad that Private Sullivan got off;

Ibid.

but considers that, as the charge was one of murdering a native, the Jury should have been composed partly of "children of the soil."

The evidence of the prosecution witness, Sergeant Macrurie, left no room for doubt that Sullivan was perfectly sane when he committed the foul deed, and Macrurie's statement was supported by Major Brown. These two soldiers who proved the sanity of the prisoner were thrown overboard, while others whose depositions did not mean so much, were relied on, and Sullivan was found not guilty.

"As we said the other day, observes the *Patrika*, "the people of this country are losing all interest in the result of such cases."

BENGALÉE,
24th May 1901.

1588. Referring to the results of the trials in the Koderma shooting case and the Fort William murder, the *Bengalée* says,

Two murder cases and Indian public opinion.

"The public do not look at these cases from the lawyer's standpoint. They take a common sense view of the situation. They see that two Englishmen have caused the death of three Indians, and they find that after the solemn proceeding in each case extending over several days, the prisoners were acquitted. They come to the conclusion, it may be erroneously, that our rulers may say what they like, but there is one law for Europeans and another for the Indians. They are confirmed in the conviction, which has become planted in their minds by a number of instances, that in cases where Europeans are the accused and Indians the aggrieved parties, no justice is to be had in our Courts.....The verdicts in the two cases, which have recently been disposed of by the High Court Sessions, and in which Europeans were the accused, have produced a most painful impression on the Indian mind."

(c)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

INDIAN NATION,
28th May 1901.

1589. The following paragraph is taken from the *Indian Nation*:—

The Calcutta Municipal Corporation and the General Plague expenditure of the Province.

The Bengal Government has, it is said, called upon the Calcutta Corporation to pay one lakh and sixty-four thousand rupees as their contribution towards plague expenditure in Bengal. We do not see why our town should

contribute to plague expenditure in the Province. We object entirely to the principle of the demand, and if the Corporation contains men watchful of the interest of rate-payers, it ought to strenuously resist the demand. It is enough Calcutta has to bear her own burdens.

1590. The *Indian Mirror* can scarcely credit the announcement that the Bengal Government has called upon the Calcutta Municipal Corporation to contribute the very large sum of a lakh and sixty-four thousand rupees towards the general plague expenditure of these Provinces. Sir John Woodburn and his Secretaries can by no means be ignorant of the sufferings of the Calcutta rate-payers, and the serious financial embarrassments of the Corporation. The Corporation is now advertising for a fresh loan of six lakhs. Notwithstanding the unwillingness of the European Commissioners to raise the rates to the maximum limit permitted by law, they will be compelled to do so under official pressure. Local Self-Government in Calcutta is now, to all intents and purposes, the Government of Bengal!

INDIAN MIRROR,
21st May 1901.

1591. The Arrah correspondent of the *Behar News* writes:—"The health of the town is far from satisfactory. Fever is raging, and plague cases are still reported, but the municipal authorities continue apathetic. Sweepings lie unremoved for days together, while the drains are most filthy."

BEHAR NEWS,
22nd May 1901.

1592. Referring to the decision of Mr. Buckley on the claims of the contractors, the *Bengalee* wishes for a full and searching enquiry into the matter of responsibility for delay in making over rolling stock, land and plans, and also the neglect to pay the bills on which interest was claimed.

BENGALIEE,
23rd May 1901.

"The late Commissioners have been blamed for the laches of the Executive; but everybody knows the Executive was all powerful. Here is a positive loss to the Corporation, and the rate-payers must pay the loss."

The Government should call for explanation, and the officers responsible should themselves be made to pay the sum awarded by the arbitrator.

1593. The *Hindoo Patriot* recites the numerous changes which have taken place in the constitution of the Calcutta Municipality, from the days of the Justices and Sir Steuart Hogg, to the conversion of the Corporation into an elective body by Sir Richard Temple; from the period when it was characterised as an "arsenal of delays and an armoury of speeches" to recent times, when the cry was raised that there was a preponderance of Babudom in the Corporation. What will be the future of this Corporation appears to exercise the mind of the *Patriot*—whether it will be a department of the Government or remain in its present state."

HINDOO PATRIOT,
22nd May 1901.

1594. The *Bengalee* does not wish to condemn beforehand the scheme for amalgamating the Engineering and Health Departments, but what strikes it is, that a number of new posts will be created on comfortable salaries, the majority of which will fall to the lot of Europeans and Eurasians. But the *Bengalee* is not opposed to any scheme which will ensure better supervision of conservancy matters which at the present moment are getting worse and worse.

BENGALIEE,
23rd May 1901.

The *Bengalee* next wishes to know what work Mr. U. L. Mazumdar accomplished that he has been permitted to revert to the Finance Department, and whether he was given a free hand or cribbed and confined to routine work? It also enquires what has become of the *pukka* Secretary, Mr. Macdonald, whose days in the Municipal Office are said to be numbered. It next hears sensational accounts of Mr. D'Cruz's growing ascendancy in the Municipal Office, and finally it wishes to know what has become of Mr. Blackwood's sympathy with poor rate-payers.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

1595. The *Bengalee* calls attention to the speeches made at the Midnapore Conference on the subject of drainage and embankments in the Contai subdivision, and endeavours to show how the Orissa Coast Canal is, to a great extent, answerable for the state of things in this subdivision.

BENGALIEE,
20th May 1901.

"The canalisation of the Surpai has practically cut off the drainage system of a very important portion of the Contai subdivision. To a man of ordinary sense, it would have seemed easy to avoid all this trouble, by simply constructing two lock-gates at the points where the Coast Canal touched the Surpai. The obstruction by the sea-dyke, which has been constructed along the north-eastern boundary of the subdivision, of the mouths of the khals that formerly discharged their waters into the Rossulpore river, is rapidly silting up that large watercourse itself, and is thus threatening to cut off the principal drainage canal of the whole district."

The Subdivisional Officer offered to take the Engineer over the tracts affected, but the Engineer did not care to take the trouble and submitted a report stating that the complaints were exaggerated, a view which has been adopted by the Bengal Government.

The *Bengalee* suggests an examination into the drainage system of Contai by some expert or experts "who have no parental partiality for it," and has no doubt that, when the matter is once laid before Sir John Woodburn, it will receive his most favourable consideration.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
19th May 1901.

1596. The *Bengalee* complains of the danger to the public by the careless shunting of engines and waggons in the Sealdah and Baliaghata yards, and the annoyance caused to

passengers by the gross incivility and erratic doings of the Eurasian officials. It then quotes three cases of recent occurrence in which Eurasian officials have been charged with offences against passengers, and complains that in the last case, now *sub-judice*, in which T. Gonsalves, Luggage Inspector, was charged with having abused a Muhammadan passenger and snatched his ticket, the conduct of the Assistant Inspector-General, Government Railway Police, is somewhat inexplicable. The head of the Police hearing that an A Form was to be submitted on the 2nd May, wired that the accused was not to be sent up without the sanction of the Manager. This enabled Gonsalves to clear out on a month's leave and the poor passenger was left without his remedy. The Assistant Inspector-General, however, made an independent enquiry and permitted the case to go on, but transferred from Sealdah the particular Sub-Inspector who had reported the case as true, and has further ordered the Police to keep themselves away from the waiting hall.

(h)—General.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
1st May 1901.

1597. *Power and Guardian* refers to a case at present under police enquiry which occurred at a small railway station

Outrage on a woman in the Punjab.

in the Punjab, named Beas, where a native woman, detained for the purposes of plague examination, was left behind, and inveigled by a policeman and two other men into a lonely spot a little distance away from the station, where the policeman attempted to take indecent liberties with her. *Power and Guardian* hopes the case will not end in a *fiasco*, as so many of its predecessors have done, but that it will be tried with the utmost severity.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
19th May 1901.

1598. *Power and Guardian* says, "Dacoities are systematically on the increase in India, and organised bands of ruffians have now their head-quarters in almost

every district. The police are utterly powerless to cope with them."

"In addition to the Civil Police, the Government has another thoroughly equipped department called the Thagi and Dacoity Department, the officers of which, I regret to say, are more often employed on *quasi-political* missions of a shady character than on their legitimate duties."

The article then goes on to hold the Arms Act responsible for the increase of dacoities and such crimes of violence, for the villagers are unarmed and, being law-abiding people, will not break the law by keeping guns, while the criminal classes have no scruple about breaking through the restrictions of the Arms Act, together with other laws.

BENGALER,
20th May 1901.

1599. The *Bengalee* regrets to see in the *Calcutta Gazette* that the Government has called on the District Boards of the Patna Division to send in a nomination for a seat on the Legislative Council. It is argued that the

The Council election and the Bhagalpur Division.

turn should have been given to the Bhagalpur Division, which was denied its right in 1899, and which has not had the privilege of electing a Member once since the Councils were reformed. The election of 1895 was annulled and the Maharaja of Gidhour appointed by the Government. According to the circular of 1893, Bhagalpur will not get another turn until 1905.

1600. The *Behar News* thinks its readers will regard with alarm and

BEHAR NEWS
22nd May 1901.

The Council election.

consternation the news that the Patna Division has been called upon to recommend a Member for a seat in the Legislative Council. The decision of the Government is practically "a disenfranchisement of the Bhagalpur Division," which has not been allowed to return a single Member since the Council was reconstituted in 1893.

"The unjustified and unaccountable disenfranchisement of Bhagalpur is in complete conflict with the rules laid down in the India Councils Act of 1892, and in wanton violation of the pledges and promises given by the present Lieutenant-Governor at the time when addresses were presented to His Honour by the Bhagalpur Landholders' Association and the local municipality."

1601. On this subject, the *Hindoo Patriot* fails to see any tangible ground

HINDOO PATRIOT,
22nd May 1901.

Disfranchisement of Bhagalpur Division.

for the action of the Government, and remarks that if it has been taken on account of the unfortunate results of the last election of the Division, then it is not a sufficient ground for such an exclusion. It is sure the Government has been actuated by the best of motives and noblest of purposes in coming to this decision, and if there exists a sufficient ground for disfranchising Bhagalpur and allowing the franchise to Bankipur, the matter ends there. What the disqualifications of the former Division and the special qualifications of the latter are, ought to be made known, with a view to allaying all misapprehension and putting the public in possession of the real facts.

1602. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* repeats a question asked when the disenfranchisement of Dacca was contemplated, viz., is the Lieutenant-Governor empowered to

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
23rd May 1901.

Ibid.

disfranchise a Division?

Quoting Sir Charles Elliott's rotation scheme, it says:—

"So Sir John Woodburn has very good excuse this time why he has preferred Patna to Bhagalpur. 'How can I go against the arrangement of my two distinguished predecessors,' His Honour may say, 'who decided that Patna and not Bhagalpur should be asked to nominate its Member in 1901?' Of course His Honour did not regard their wishes in 1897, when disfranchising Dacca; but, that was because Sir John Woodburn 'considered it desirable to make a variation in the order' on that occasion. And when a Lieutenant-Governor 'desires' a thing, it must be carried out anyhow, though it may not meet with the wishes of those who are vitally interested in it!"

1603. Referring to the Government Resolution calling on the Patna Division to elect a Member of Council in place of the Hon'ble Babu Baikanta Nath Sen, the *Amrita*

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
24th May 1901.

Ibid.

Bazar Patrika says, "The Lieutenant-Governor has taken refuge in the rotation scheme of 1893 to justify his disfranchising Bhagalpur on the present occasion. His Honour, however, ignored the rotation scheme of his two predecessors, when he had to disfranchise the Dacca Division." When the Hon'ble Surendra Nath Banerji vacates his seat in July, his seat will be taken away from the municipalities and made over to the landholders.The little of Local Self-Government conferred on the people is fast disappearing."

1604. Referring to the notification in the last issue of the *Calcutta Gazette*,

BENGALUR,
22nd May 1901.

Disfranchisement of Bhagalpur.

the *Bengalee* protests, with all the emphasis it can command, against a seat in the Council being withdrawn from the mufassal municipalities. There is no reason for such disfranchisement of the municipalities. The Maharaja of Gidhour is an excellent representative, but instead of appointing the Maharaja in January last, the Government might have called upon the Zamindars' Association to elect a representative of their own. Such an arrangement would not have necessitated the taking away of a seat from the mufassal municipalities and might have enabled the Government to do justice to the Bhagalpur Division. Justice demanded

that the Bhagalpur Division should be given the first opportunity of returning a Member, and this could have been done had the Government allowed the zamindars to return a Member in January, or postponed this concession to them until the claims of Bhagalpur had been satisfied.

INDIAN MIRROR,
20th May 1901.

1605. The *Indian Nation* has the following:—

The Indian Civil Servant.

What is the omniscient Civilian not fit for? To-day he is a Magistrate, to-morrow he is a Judge, the next day he may be at the head of the Post Office or the Telegraph Office, or be the adviser of the Government on legal affairs, or the Controller of Public Works, or the administrator of Finances. Wonderful is the competitive examination which detects the latent germs of all these multitudinous capacities. In Midnapore the District Magistrate is going to officiate as the District Judge. We have nothing to say or suggest against any individual, but we cannot help wondering at a system which permits these mutations. Here is an interesting passage from a letter of the Midnapore correspondent of the *Bengalee*, which appears in that journal. "It is a matter of frequent occurrence that an appeal of a case which has been decided by the Magistrate, is filed in the course of a day or two. But it makes very little difference if appeals are generally preferred after longer intervals, say, a week or two, considering that Mr. Samman, the Magistrate, becomes Mr. Samman, the Judge, in the same district, and continues to be so for a month and-a-half at least. Now, in such appeals, Mr. Samman, the Judge, will be required to sit in judgment upon the decisions given a few days ago by Mr. Samman, the Magistrate, and to try to find fault with them—a feat which is alone possible by the members of that Heaven-born Service, the Civil Service of India."

INDIAN MIRROR,
21st May 1901.

1606. The *Indian Mirror* holds that Mr. Geidt's two judgments have placed both the Government and the High Court in an extremely uncomfortable position, from which it is curious to know how they will dislodge themselves with credit.

Mr. Geidt's two judgments.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,

2nd and 23rd May
1901.

1607. Under this heading the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* produces two articles chiefly intended to show the power of police rule in the mufassal and its inefficiency for the good of the people.

"There is very little justice in the mufassal and very little protection. The great ambition of the administrators was to obtain a thorough grip of the country, by putting every fifty householders under one constable." This was found to cost too much, so it was resolved to convert the village watchmen into constables.

Every village had at least one watchman whose duty it was to protect the villagers against thieves. As everybody's servant the chaukidar had no status and was the most contemptible creature in the village.

In order to bring the chaukidar under the police, his pay was raised and a tax was levied, and it was arranged that the chaukidar should be appointed and dismissed by the Government. It is now no longer to the interest of the chaukidar to serve the villagers, consequently he pays no attention to his duties of watch and ward, and himself frequently takes part in burglaries."

"The villagers never complained, they preferred to suffer in silence, for, any complaint made would be referred to a Police Officer for local investigation, which would mean expense to the villagers.

The chaukidar's post is regarded with disfavour, consequently the Magistrate is bound to overlook his faults, for he cannot dismiss him on account of the difficulty of finding a successor.

Thieves are growing more and more reckless. When the villagers are robbed they prefer to suffer in silence, for the most they can do is to send for the police. If the police do come, they rarely recover the stolen property, and it usually means to the villagers further loss, much annoyance, and some danger. If the Police officer is dishonest, he sometimes declares the case false, and threatens the householder with a prosecution under section 211, and the householder has to send him back well repaid.

And has the chaukidar proved of any service to the State. "He has to attend the police station every week, a mere routine work, which is dissipation of energy pure and simple. When Police officers come to the villages, he has

to serve them as a menial servant." The chaukidars are quite unfit to be trusted with any responsible work, and the Government must give up the idea of establishing an iron grip over the villagers by means of these men.

It is for the maintenance of these creatures that Government has imposed the most iniquitous tax ever conceived by man. The man who has only a brass plate or a goat, has frequently to part with it to meet his chaukidari tax. "The villagers have no longer only chaukidars to maintain, but others too. First, the chaukidar proper; 2nd, the head chaukidar; 3rd, the assistant *punchait*; 4th, the *punchait*; 5th, the tax collector."

To show the iniquities of the system, the *Patrika* then quotes a case in which a village *punchait* of Dollipore, 24-Parganas, was sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 100 for extortion and wrongful confinement of a Hindu widow.

1608. Referring to the letter recently published by the *Pioneer* on the subject of assaults on Europeans in Chapra, the *Bengalee* regards "the whole story of popular violence and agitation as a myth."

It cannot understand how anything like irritation should be created by the plague measures of the Government of Bengal. They are mild to a degree, and if any trouble has been caused the officers must have hopelessly bungled the measures.

NOTE.—The assaults on the B. L. H. Sergeant and the Superintendent of Salt Revenue have been reported, but this office has no information of the attack on the Plague Officer's camp and the hustling of the District Magistrate. District Superintendent of Police, Chapra, has been asked for a report.

1609. Referring to a letter recently published in the *Pioneer* on the subject of the plague disturbances in Chapra, the *Hindoo Patriot* says: "It is possible that this letter has been written on second-hand information, because it is beyond possibility that the state of things in Chapra could be so deplorable as has been stated by the correspondent." If such a state of things could exist, the *Patriot* wonders what steps the authorities are taking for its suppression.

The *Patriot* can hardly believe that such strained relations exist between villagers and Europeans, and would be glad of facts and proofs of the statements made by the *Pioneer's* correspondent.

1610. The *Indian Mirror* finds that the Magistrate and Sessions Judge who tried the case in which an English Artist was insulted, interlarded their judgments with much irrelevant matter, and remarks that after the violent pronouncement of the Sessions Judge, the Burmese and Chinese population in Burma will have even a greater grievance against the domineering foreigner than after the Rangoon rape case. The *Mirror* hopes a further appeal lies to the Chief Court. In any case, it would earnestly invite the Viceroy's attention to this race-feeling, which the District Magistrate and the Sessions Judge have done their utmost—probably unconsciously—to foster.

IV.—NATIVE STATES

1611. *Power and Guardian* refers to the affairs of the Sikh States, reported in paragraph 1543, and joins its voice with that of the *Simla News*, in calling upon Lord Curzon to clip the wings of the Political Officers responsible for the state of things therein described.

1612. The *Bengalee* hears that the Maharaja of Tippera is now on a visit to Darjeeling with the object of doing all he can to press his claims to appoint his son Jubaraj in supersession of the claims of his half-brother, the Bara Thakur.

The *Bengalee* hopes that the Government will look to the case and decide it purely on its merits, with strict, impartial justice that swerveth neither to the right nor the left.

The law and custom is clearly explained in a judgment of the High Court on the subject, and the custom of the Bara Thakur's right to become Jubaraj has hitherto been supported by the Courts and the Paramount Power.

BENGALÉE,
23rd May 1901.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
23rd May 1901.

INDIAN MIRROR,
24th May 1901.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
19th May 1901.

BENGALÉE,
22nd May 1901.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROP AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
19th May 1901.

1613. *Power and Guardian* says that in Mymensingh "not only is there scarcity of water, but the pinch of hunger is beginning to affect the people of certain tracts." It then quotes a case of a man who would have committed suicide in his desperate circumstances had not the well-to-do of the neighbourhood come to his assistance, and carefully mentions that 'this is not a solitary case.'

"Sir John Woodburn will only maintain his high reputation for kindness and sympathy if His Honour will nip the evil in the bud by taking preventive measures with a view to avert the impending famine."

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA,
20th May 1901.

1614. Reverting to the subject of the litigiousness of the people (paragraph 1564), the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* finds that the remedy lies in the restitution of the old village *punchait*, which system, if re-introduced, would bring peace, contentment and immense relief to millions. No one can deny this. Yet this policy is not adopted, and people are obliged to come to the conclusion that this is so because such an arrangement would mean loss of revenue to Government and the removal of a large number of Europeans from service. Hide it as you may, the real contention is between Government revenue and the interests of a certain class of Englishmen on the one side, and the happiness of the people on the other.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA,
21st May 1901.

1615. The following paragraph appears in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*:—
The death of Mr. Justice Strachey ought to give a rude awakening to those who value earthly honours and distinctions. As everybody knows, Mr. Strachey came to public prominence by trying the case of Mr. Tilak and sentencing him to rigorous imprisonment for 18 months. Everyone thought that Mr. Tilak would not survive his incarceration; for, not only was he treated like a common felon in the jail, but was also suffering from ill-health. What an irony of fate that Mr. Tilak is yet alive, but the Judge, who passed such ferocious sentence upon him, is no more! It was, however, Mr. Strachey's famous definition of disaffection—want of affection—that made his name familiar to almost every educated man in India. The Tilak case, however, paved the way of Mr. Strachey to occupy one of the highest judicial posts in India at the early age of 39, in supersession of the claims of many a senior and distinguished Judge of the High Court. Mr. Strachey was, however, really an able man, and as Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, he had already made his mark by some of his brilliant decisions. We are very sorry indeed that he is cut off in the prime of his life and all his future ambitions are dashed to the ground. We humbly think that, if persons holding responsible positions were to keep the stern fact constantly before their eyes that they might die any moment and be called upon to render an account of their doings to the Great Judge in Heaven, they would be incapable of committing any unworthy acts or treating their less favoured fellow-beings otherwise than as brethren.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
19th May 1901.

1616. *Power and Guardian* regrets that its esteemed friends, the Muham-madans, cannot get through their annual festival without creating disturbances. It then gives an account of the *Mohurram* riot in Patna, which is obviously taken from the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*: "Men are alleged to have been wounded and killed, shops looted, and women outraged. *Lathies* and even swords were used, and the rowdies had a merry time of it. Several of the wounded persons have since died."

NOTE—The District Superintendent of Police, Patna, reports that there is no truth in these grossly exaggerated accounts of the riot, which was witnessed by several of the principal officials of the Patna district.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
19th May 1901.

1617. Referring to the recent plague riots in the Punjab, *Power and Guardian* says: "Justice demands that in all such cases the causes which bring about the disturbances

should be found out first, and the most effective steps taken to prevent their recurrence."

Perhaps the disturbances were not entirely due to the fault of the people, for, according to correspondents of Punjab contemporaries, the populace were goaded to desperation, "fields were overrun and pillaged for the sake of the horses and cattle of the officials," "systematic extortion was practised," "women were dishonoured."

1618. The *Behar News* thinks that in many respects the Midnapur Conference was as formal as the one held in

The Provincial Conference.

Bhagalpur last year. Behar was unrepresented, and Bengal sent only 80 delegates. Still the papers describe the Conference as having met with unprecedented success. Commenting on the emotionalism that leads the papers to make such statements, the writer concludes, "As at present constituted, the Bengal Provincial Conference is simply bluster of the moment and does not leave the people any good in its train save a few formal symbols and shibboleths."

1619. Referring to the announcement in the *Pioneer*, that 50 arrests had been made in connection with the Sialkote riots, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* remarks as follows:—

Ibid.

"That is the exact situation. It is the *badmashes* who commit the outrages, and it is the innocent men who are hauled up batch after batch. The former run away after accomplishing their nefarious purpose, and the latter lag behind as spectators, conscious of their own innocence, to fall ultimately into the clutches of the police who enter the scene after the disturbance is over. Need now anybody wonder why India is getting into a land of riots? The *badmashes* know that they can elude the police and it is others than themselves who are punished for their crimes. They thus carry on a roaring trade of lawlessness with impunity. The incapacity of the police is never known to the higher authorities, for many of the innocent persons arrested by the former are adjudged guilty by our scientific courts of law and sent to jail as *badmashes*. And thus riots occur over and over again."

1620. The *Indian Nation* thinks that it is not by agents alone that the work of the Congress is to be carried on. It

Carrying on the work of the Congress.

requires to be supported by literature and journalism, and a force or factor which in character is subtler and less palpable, but in its operation more potent than either of these two.

"It is our daily life and conversation. Society is reformed, when every individual is reformed, and the Congress cause will gain immensely when every member, friend, and supporter of the Congress behaves as a Congressman should. To behave as a Congressman does not mean behaving defiantly and rebelliously. It does not imply discontent or disaffection. It means only honest, independent and patriotic behaviour. And patriotism means the disposition not to indulge in a mere abstract love of the country or the people, but to sympathise with and to actively aid one's own countrymen, real living concrete individuals,—and to exert for their welfare in public and private life. To glow with a perfervid patriotism for three days and almost immediately after to sink into the sycophant and the trimmer is unworthy of an honest man. A man who would religiously avoid purchasing articles of native manufacture, who would never think of sending his son to a school under native management, who would not patronise a native tradesman or professional man, who as a member of a Municipal Corporation or a District Board would always support an official chairman or an official party, who in seeking election to an office employs unworthy arts and solicits official influence, who in voting for others yields to official influence and personal considerations, who in public life is guided by a spirit of *dala dali* and is indifferent to public interests, is an enemy to the cause of the Congress and the cause of the country, though he might speak on the Congress platform or contribute liberally to the Congress funds. And whoever acts honestly and independently according to his professed principles of regard for the country's welfare, is really a friend and supporter of the Congress and may be said to carry on its work, though he may not care to be returned a delegate and formally stamped as a Congressman. Let it, therefore, be distinctly recognised that carrying on the work of the Congress is a thing not to be done merely by travelling agents. It has to be done by a literature, it has to be done by the press, it has to be done by each and all of us at every

BEHAR NEWS,
14th May 1901.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
14th May 1901.

INDIAN NATION,
19th May 1901.

moment of our active life. Patriotism or public spirit is not a thing for exhibition. It is not a thing to be reserved for State occasions. Where it is built into the character it regulates all actions, even the smallest. And very often small actions exhibit the real spirit more truly than grand actions. We have to act according to professed principles: that would be carrying on the work of the Congress. But to pose as a Hampden in the Congress gathering and to be a sneak in our daily lives is to frustrate the work at the Congress. To be democratic in profession and to be servile to the officials in our actions, is to act as a coward and a traitor."

INDIAN MIRROR,
17th May 1901.

1621. A Muhammadan writing in the *Indian Mirror* explains that "the present disagreement between the two communities is due to the arrogance of the zamindars, and the

Muhammadans and Hindus.

racial articles in the newspapers. If the zamindars cease to be abhorrent to the members of the other community and the Editors of Journals put a stop to agitating race animosity and publishing rancorous articles, and the native officials extend their patronage and favour to the candidates of the opposite community, then and then only the union and good will of the two communities can be expected to be achieved. The educated and the well-to-do are to be urged to do their duty faithfully in the amelioration of the mother-country, and their examples will no doubt lead the less educated to follow."

The Muhammadans in general are compelled by the high-handedness of their well-to-do neighbours to think that the Hindus have no sympathy for them, and their disgrace is their highest aim and pleasure. With such notions, can we expect them to join any movement, got up by the Hindus? I need hardly assure the public that as soon as the cause is removed, and a good understanding established, the longed-for and much-needed co-operation will follow by itself.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
12th May 1901.

1622. The *Hindoo Patriot* believes the time has come when natives should make a systematic effort to gain admission

Admission of natives into the army.

into the military service of the country. It finds

"nothing objectionable or peculiar in the trait of our national character, or in the ordinary mode and manner of our life which could possibly deprive us of this cherished privilege." Whatever State reasons and political considerations existed for withholding it, they do not possess that force now which they did at the early period of British rule, because the rulers and the ruled are now in closer touch with each other, and the necessity which was not felt then is keenly felt now owing to the changed conditions of life. The objection that natives are lacking in courage and physical strength is regarded as sentimental, and to prove the weakness of such a charge, instances are cited of Bengalees who displayed their courage during the Indian Mutiny, for which they received the recognition of Government. There is, moreover, the case of Lieutenant Biswas who "surprised the world by his military achievements." What wonder then that others better situated and better qualified than he or equally situated would not be able to wear British Military uniform with honour to themselves and to the advantage of their country and Sovereign. The article concludes as follows:—

"His Majesty King Edward VII has ascended the throne amid an outburst of Indian loyalty, and His Majesty will find his Empire of India placed on a more firm footing which will ensure greater solidarity, if he opens for the children of the soil a career in the Military Service as his gracious mother opened for them other higher branches of public services under the Crown. We appeal to the King and His august representative in the East for the fulfilment of this hope, and by doing so they will open a new era in the administration of British rule in this country."

BENGALÉE,
5th May 1901.

1623. The *Bengalée* does not receive with delight the news given out by

Rumoured retirement of Lord Curzon.

a correspondent of *India*, that Lord Curzon is about to give up the Viceroyalty to join the Ministry, and will be succeeded by Sir Alfred

Milner. Fresh from the scene of strife and bloodshed in South Africa, Sir Alfred is scarcely the man to pursue a liberal policy in this country. "With Sir Alfred Milner as Viceroy and Lord Kitchener as Commander-in-Chief, India will indeed be a most delectable (*sic*) country to live in."

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,

WRITERS' BUILDINGS,

The 1st June 1901.

C. A. P.—Reg. No. 863J—78—5.6.1901.

F. C. DALY,

Asst. to Insp.-General of Police, L. P.